



Living a Mission

I hope you are keeping up with the journey through Philippians that our L.I.F.E. Groups are currently undertaking. I have heard encouraging reports from many of you as you spend time reading and re-reading a small portion of this letter each week. Others have expressed a little guilt over not being able to follow the directions completely. That is OK. Don't feel too guilty about that. Any reading is better than no reading at all.

Our assigned reading for this week is full of depth and meaning. There is so much in this section of Philippians that challenges me. What really stands out to me is that Paul sees his life as a mission. He is not someone who simply goes on a mission trip. His whole life is about being on a mission. His whole life is a mission trip.

I love the way the NLT translates verse 25. As Paul is writing, he goes back and forth about whether or not he will live through prison, or die in prison. Finally, in verse 25 he writes, *"Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith."* Paul is absolutely convinced that he will live, and that he will live for a reason. Again, Paul is a man whose whole life was viewed as a mission.

So often we ask questions about things that happen in our lives. Often those questions start with, *"Why?"* Maybe Paul gives us an answer. Maybe we go through certain periods in life, or we are allowed to experience certain events in our life, because God wants us to use it as part of our mission. I pray for the faith to see life through the same lens that Paul used. Our challenge is to proclaim, with Paul, *"I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith."* As I struggle through the bad times, and rejoice in the good times, I hope that I can always see my life as one on a mission. ~Gilbert Kerrigan

***Our vision:
Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known***

The Meanest Man In Texas

Don Umphrey's book, *The Meanest Man in Texas*, is the true story of Clyde Thompson, a man convicted of four murders. It is a story about the harsh penal system in Texas during the first half of the century. It is a story of one man's journey from childhood, through many mistakes, and on to a fulfilling life. But most importantly, it is a story about God's grace.

Clyde Thompson, after being put on death row at the age of seventeen, entered into a discussion with a preacher on the radio, and began a long journey of repentance and redemption that brought him to places he never expected. The road was neither simple, nor pleasant, involving additional murders and many years in several prisons. But at the end of the story, when Clyde Thompson's life is laid out for all to see, one can see God working even with horrible situations and in the lives of people who want nothing to do with him.

After being in prison for 28 years Clyde Thompson was released from prison, married a woman who had visited him while he was in prison and continued the prison ministry he had started while in confinement. Clyde was the jail chaplain at Lubbock County Jail. Having experienced the grace of God, and wanting other prisoners to know that they too had hope, he opened the Prisoners Aid Center, a ministry under the direction of the Midway Church of Christ near Huntsville Texas. God took the "Meanest Man in Texas" and created in him a new creation, one that was able to honor and glorify God with his life.

Our God is truly awesome.

-Phil

Prayer Concerns....

Kaden Koebcke, son of Cami & Travis, and grandson of Jack & Sue McCoy, has been hospitalized at Riley Children's Hospital with kidney problems....**Mandy Anderson's** back surgery has been postponed....**David Henke** was scheduled to be dismissed from St. Elizabeth Hospital on Tuesday after spending the weekend having dialysis treatments....**John Walters** has been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes.... Pauletta Smith's brother, **Gary Verett**, had major surgery on Monday in Texas.... David & Vicki Henke's 1-year old nephew, **Deacon**, was treated for RSV and released from Riley Hospital on Friday....**Henrietta Frampton**, though still receiving treatment for the tumor in her head, is able to be at home....Continue praying for **Max Houlton, Jim Moore, Peter Tavana, Carolyn & Charles Moore, Paul Thomas, Herb King, Eileen Richardson, Marie DeWoody, Hattie Coffel, Irene Sims, Mary Tavana, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, Ivan Ellis, Valley Stockton, Eagle Bailey, Minnie Scott, Anna Dale, Irene Fox, and Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in our military: **Michael Farris** in Afghanistan; **Steve Brady, Ti Draughon** in Iraq; and **Chris Martin**, in South Korea.

New Families at Elmwood

We have lots of new faces at Elmwood worship services and in our LIFE Groups. Three couples and their families have asked to be identified as they wish to be involved with Elmwood's weekly activities.

- **Craig, Angela, Justin, Jonathan, and Tanner Asbill** have been attending Elmwood since they came in October. They come to us from New Mexico. Craig works for Caterpillar and Angela is a stay-at-home mom. Justin & Jonathan are 1st graders at Mintonye Elementary, and Tanner is a 3-year-old. They live at 8914 Coyote Trail, West Point, 47992; ph: 572-3125.
- **Joshua, Linnet, Hannah, Claral, and Irwynn Chia** come to us from Singapore. Joshua is a graduate student at Purdue and Linnet is a stay-at-home mom. Irwynn was actually just born here in December. The Chias live at 206-4 Airport Rd., West Lafayette 47906; ph: 496-4939.
- **Bob & Nan Waltz** are not exactly newcomers to the Elmwood family. Both were college students at Purdue and had been living and working in Indianapolis. Bob is now the State Chemist with his office at Purdue, and Nan is a pharmacist at Home Hospital. They have two children: Daniel, a law student in Chicago, and Ellie is a freshman at Indiana University.

A Pick-Me-Up on Wednesdays?

Do you need a spiritual "pick-me-up" in the middle of the work week? How about joining one of these Wednesday night adult classes at the church building? I'm sure you will be blessed!

- Adult Challenger Class – presently studying *Numbers*, taught by Bill Hodges (Room 19)
 - A2 Class – presently studying *2 Chronicles*, led by Bill Farris (Room A2)
 - Women's Class – presently studying *Nehemiah*, taught by Pam Houlton (Room 02)
 - Men's Class – presently studying *John*, led by Rick Swensen (Room 14)
 - Another Women's Class – presently studying *The Screwtape Letters*, by C.S.Lewis, led by Becky Pitt (Room 202)
- Joe Ruhl



It's a Boy!



Ginger Maxwell-Spenard is excited to announce the arrival of another grandson: **Owen Lee**, on January 28, to daughter and son-in-law, Amber & Jason Tolle. He weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces and measured 21 inches long. He joins big brother, Xander. Congratulations, Ginger and Terry!

A Baby Shower!

On **February 10 from 4:30 until 6:30 PM** the Boyds will be hosting a combination shower and Singaporean Makan celebration for new baby Irwynn Chia. Come by before LIFE Group to honor the Chias' new arrival!



We bid a sad farewell to **Mark, Sarah & Isaiah Bird**. This week they move to the Memphis, Tennessee area. Their new address: 11040 Silsbe Ln., Eads, TN 38028. E-mail (same): markbird22@gmail.com and sarahbird25@yahoo.com. We wish them well and God's richest blessings.

February 3, 2008

Class: 176 Worship: 279

Contribution: \$9,887

Budget: \$10,000/week

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Deadlines

It is a busy time of year! A couple major and very important events in the youth ministry at Elmwood are just around the corner. Winterfest in Gatlinburg, Tennessee is just over a week away, but you still have the chance to go. If you are interested, you need to see me or call me immediately. We need to reserve your ticket and make sure we have space in the vehicles and in the hotel for you. Registration cost is now \$30 and T-shirt and concert prices have gone up as well. Cost for travel and lodging is still \$85 – meals are not included in the price. We will be going to the early session this year as the late session was already sold out – before the early registration deadline! It sounds like there is going to be a big crowd this year. Just over a month away is the Leadership Training for Christ convention in Indianapolis (at the Marriott East), March 21-23. Once again, it is not too late to sign up, but you need to get registered now. In addition, deadlines for events are quickly approaching. See the list below. If you have any questions about LTC, please see Phyllis Simmerman, Barb Tilley, or me immediately. The website address is www.mwltc.org. You don't want to get left out!

Pre-Convention Events due February 11th...Project material for pre-convention events must be postmarked by Monday, February 11, 2008. This deadline applies to:

Bible Class Teaching: Develop and teach a Bible Class lesson related to the theme; record on DVD video.

Christian Website: Develop and demonstrate creative and technical talents by the creation of a Web site on the Internet.

Christian Writing: Creative expression of spiritual experiences and insight in God's Word. A participant may submit up to three writing projects for evaluation.

Radio Minute Message: Design and present a radio message of Christ related to this year's theme, as outreach and/or encouragement, recorded on audio tape, CD, or as an MP3 file.

Video Bible Drama: Dramatize a Bible story illustrating the LTC theme; involves appropriate Bible period costumes, props and acting. Recorded as DVD. This is a team event.

Challenge Events are due March 10, 2008...All Challenge event submission forms are due to their respective event coordinators. This includes Leadership Challenge, Outreach Challenge, Service Challenge, & Scripture Challenge.

Levi Ratcliff

It is always a joy to be able to witness a baptism. It is a very special joy to have the honor of baptizing someone. Levi Ratcliff is no stranger to most of you. Levi's spiritual heritage runs deep here at Elmwood. You know Levi's great-grandfather Paul Marks, his grandparents John and Sherry Marks, and his parents Chris and Melanie Ratcliff. Levi has been considering his need to make a commitment to the Lord for some time now – Sunday was the day it all began. Let's do all we can to love and support Levi as he grows in his faith and continues his walk with Jesus. Levi's picture and info are included in this newsletter. – Lee



Linda Dilks, Ronda Tidrick's aunt, began coming some months ago and immediately began attending not only worship services, but became involved in the Houlton/Miller LIFE Group. On Saturday, February 2, Linda obeyed her Lord in baptism, with most of the LIFE Group members present.



Linda's husband, George, passed away last year. She has two daughters, Sherry and Chris, who reside in Virginia. She dotes on her 2 granddaughters when she can. Linda is delighted that her aunt, Sally Smith, has been attending Elmwood recently too. Linda lives and works in Lafayette. Her address: 904 Ortman Lane, Lafayette 47909. Ph: 471-2563; Email: linda_dilks@insightbb.com. Welcome, Linda!

On Sunday morning, **Levi Ratcliff**, son of Chris & Melanie, and grandson of John & Sherry Marks, put on Christ in baptism.



Levi, 14 years old, is a freshman at McCutcheon High School. He loves music (writing it and playing drums and bass guitar in a band). Levi's address: 7323 S. 450 E., Lafayette 47909. Ph: 523-3333. Congratulations, Levi,

and welcome to the family at Elmwood!

Campus Minister Candidate here this weekend

The Campus Minister Search Committee has invited the second of three candidates to visit Elmwood this weekend, **February 8-10**. He will attend our Sunday worship service. Plan to be here to meet him.

Our Sympathies



Our sympathies to **Chris Macaluso** on the death of his 93-year-old grandmother, **Mary Szafranski**, of Crown Point, Indiana.



- Feb. 6, 7 PM....**Bible classes for everyone
- Feb. 6, 5:50-6:50 PM....**Good \$ense Budget Class, taught by Janet Boston in conference room
- Feb. 10, 4:30-6:30 PM....**Baby shower for Irwynn Chia
- Feb. 10, 6 PM....**LIFE Groups meet
- Feb. 15-17....**Youth WINTERFEST, Gatlinburg, TN

